

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LIBREV 01667 171139Z

ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 ACDA-12 AID-05  
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00  
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 /151 W

-----119025 172318Z /66

R 171100Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1210

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 0410

USUN 0629

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1667

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, GB

SUBJ: LAW OF THE SEA

REF: (A) STATE 131424 (B) STATE 134431

1. FRENCH TRANSLATION AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S MAY 22 PRESS STATEMENT  
AND

US DELEGATION REPORT GENEVA PORTION SEVENTH SESSION DELIVERED JUNE 15  
TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR LANDS, HOUSING, URBANISM, ETC., HENRI MINKO,  
WHO TRADITIONALLY HEADS GABONESE LOS DELEGATIONS. MINKO, WHO PLANS  
TO BE VACATIONING IN UNITED STATES AND CANADA THIS SUMMER, STATED  
HE WOULD PROBABLY ATTEND OPENING SESSIONS RESUMED SEVENTH SESSION.  
IT APPARENT THAT GABONESE INTEND TO BE REPRESENTED BUT HAVE NOT YET  
FOCUSED ON NAMING DELEGATION.

2. ALTHOUGH MIRNO HAD NO SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S  
PRESS STATEMENT, AMONG HIS COMMENTS ABOUT LOS MATTERS WERE THE  
FOLLOWING:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LIBREV 01667 171139Z

A. AFRICAN GROUP IS SERIOUSLY DIVIDED BOTH ON SPECIFIC LOS  
ISSUES AND OVERALL POLITICAL ORIENTATION. AMONG THE FORMER IS  
SPLIT BETWEEN COASTAL AND LANDLOCKED STATES INCLUDING RIGHT TO  
ACCESS OF ECONOMIC ZONE RESOURCES. MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM, HOWEVER,  
PRESENTED BY AFRICAN RADICALS SUCH AS ANGOLA AND CONGO SPURRED  
ON BY UNNAMED BUT EVIDENT FOREIGN POWERS.

B. COMPLEXITY OF NEGOTIATIONS, LENGTH OF SESSIONS AND ESPECIALLY EXPENSE OF GENEVA SO FRUSTRATING SO MANY AFRICAN STATES THAT TEN OR MORE DID NOT ATTEND LAST GENEVA SESSION. GABON, THOUGH RICH, FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ORGANIZE ADEQUATE STAFFING AND EXPERTISE. NEW YORK IS PREFERABLE VENUE BECAUSE OF COST.

C. MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUES SHOULD BE SIMPLY REMOVED FROM LOS NEGOTIATIONS AND BEST UMBRELLA-TYPE TREATY ACHIEVABLE SHOULD BE CONCLUDED. OTHERWISE RISK WAS TREATY THAT ONLY FEW STATES WOULD RATIFY.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MINKO IS MORE TITULAR THAN WORKING HEAD OF GABONESE LOS DELEGATIONS, HIS COMMENTS, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING POLITICAL DIVISION WITHIN AFRICAN GROUP, PROBABLY ACCURATELY REFLECT GABONESE PERCEPTION OF STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS. IN SHORT THE GABONESE ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT ANY COMPREHENSIVE TREATY AND ARE GETTING WEARY OF PROCESS OF TRYING TO GET ONE. TIENKEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LIBREV01667  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780254-0557  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LIBREVILLE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780647/aaaaboxo.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8116c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION DLOS  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 131424, 78 STATE 134431  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2309143  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAW OF THE SEA  
**TAGS:** PLOS, GB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8116c486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014